INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* ACTION COPY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 6/17/82
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

JULY 26

E X D I S

PASS KOMER IN WHITE HOUSE FROM PORTER

REF: STATE 14857

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE VERY IMAGINATIVE SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL, WHICH AIM AT "REACHING THE PEOPLE OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS." WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF RICE AND PORK WILL MOST LIKELY PRODUCE THAT RESULT, AND AS YOU ARE AWARE FROM PRECEDING TELEGRAMS, MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR SUPPLY HAVE BEEN TAKEN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD URGE GVN TO TAKE HARSH MEASURES SUCH AS WIDESPREAD CONFISCATIONS OF GOODS, AND WE ALSO HAVE FEELING THAT TRIALS OF CIVIL AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD TEND TO BE RATHER DISRUPTIVE.

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WE DO NOT BELIEVE ELECTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE SUCH MEASURES WOULD PRODUCE.

2. IN GENERAL WE CONSIDER APPROACH RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL AS TOO ABRUPT FOR THIS ELECTION PERIOD, AND THAT PRESSURE OF KIND REQUIRED TO PUT SUCH SUGGESTIONS ACROSS WOULD PRODUCE MAJOR CONFRONTATION WITH GVN; ACCUSATIONS THAT WE ARE IN FACT ATTEMPTING TO PUPPETIZE GOVERNMENT; THAT WE INTEND USE ELECTIONS HERE TO PRODUCE AMERICAN-CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT; AND WOULD GIVE EMPHASIS TO ACCUSATION THAT THIS BECOMING LARGELY A U.S. WAR. ARE SURE YOU AGREE ABOUT NEED, AS WE SEE IT HERE, TO AVOID GIVING SUCH IMPRESSIONS.

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3. IN OUR OPINION, WE MUST CONTINUE ALONG PRESENT PATH, ENCOURAGING GVN TO TAKE MEASURES TO KEEP POPULATION IN REASONABLE FRAME OF MIND. WE ARE PREPARING LIST OF VISIBLE IMPACT PROJECTS FOR SUGGESTION TO GVN, OF WHICH YOU WILL BE INFORMED WHEN OUR CONSIDERATION COMPLETED.

4. WE NOTE THAT THE SUPPLY SITUATION SEEMS TROUBLING TO YOU. HOWEVER, THE MONTHLY PROVINCE REPORTS

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INDICATE THAT EXCEPT FOR AN OCCASIONAL SHORTAGE OF CEMENT THE SUPPLY POSITION GENERALLY GOOD. ACTUAL LOGISTICS OF SUPPLY SITUATION AS IT INVOLVES FORTY-THREE PROVINCE CAPITALS AND OVER TWO HUNDRED DISTRICT CAPITALS MAY NOT BE AS TIDY AS WE WOULD LIKE BUT YOUR LOGISTICS GROUP WILL NO DOUBT COME UP WITH SOME OF THE ANSWERS TO THAT. THE END RESULT, HOWEVER, WHICH IS ADEQUATE SUPPLIES WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED, IS WHAT WE MUST KEEP OUR EYE ON. FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE WHETHER THE STUFF ARRIVES THERE ON BACK OF BUFFALOES AS LONG AS IT GETS THERE. LOGISTICS ARE NOT AN END IN THEMSELVES EXCEPT TO LOGISTICIANS.

5. I REPEAT THAT IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE JUDGMENT THAT WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH THE CARE THAT THIS UNPRECEDENTED PRE-ELECTION PERIOD REQUIRES. WE ARE OF COURSE PLEASED TO HAVE YOUR SUGGESTIONS AT ANY TIME AND YOU MAY BE SURE THEY WILL RECEIVE EVERY CONSIDERATION.

LODGE CONCURS. LODGE.

Passed S/S-O, White House, DOD, CIA, 07/26/66, 4:10 a.m.

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